

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----162014Z 066644 /43

O 161840Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2235

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1500

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BROWN AND
ASD/ISA MCAULIFFE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, NAC, AWACS
SUBJECT: NAC PRIVATE SESSION ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S
CHALLENGE TO NATO, AND ON AWACS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

REFS: A. USNATO 1296 (DTG 091053Z MAR 77)
B. USNATO 1386 (DTG 111629Z MAR 77)
C. USNATO 1387 (DTG 111640Z MAR 77)
D. USNATO 1409 (DTG 121053Z MAR 77)
E. STATE 057027 (DTG 150041Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: AT PRIVATE PERMREPS-PLUS-ONE MEETING MARCH 16,
PERMREPS DECIDED IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR THE ALLIANCE TO REACT
TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S SUGGESTION OF INCREASED INVEST-
MENT IN NATO DEFENSE. MANY PERMREPS EXPRESSED PRONOUNCED
DISQUIET AT PAUCITY OF US ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO NATO,
CITING PARTICULARLY A WASHINGTON POST ALLEGATION
THAT SECRETARY BROWN WAS NOT ESPECIALLY DISTURBED ABOUT THE
SOVIET THREAT. SYG LUNS REVEALED, TO THE SURPRISE OF EVERY-
ONE PRESENT, THAT THE FRG AND THE US WERE PROBABLY IN THE
PROCESS OF CONSIDERING A FALLBACK ALTERNATIVE TO NATO AEW.
A. DESULTORY DISCUSSION ON INFRASTRUCTURE REVEALED ONLY
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THAT THE ITALIAN POSITION HAD SHIFTED IN A MILDLY FAVOR-
ABLE WAY. END SUMMARY.

1. FOURTEEN OUT OF THE 15 PERMREPS ATTENDED THE NAC
PRIVATE MEETING (REF D) IN SYG LUNS' OFFICE ON MARCH
16 -- THE EXCEPTION WAS THE NETHERLANDS, WHOSE DCM SAT
FOR HIS AMBASSADOR. LUNS OPENED BY READING A LETTER TO
HIMSELF FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU OF ZAIRE THAT THE ZAIRE
AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM HAD DELIVERED TO HIM YESTERDAY.
THE LETTER (TEXT SEPTTEL) STRESSES THE SERIOUSNESS OF

THE INVASION BY 1000 TROOPS, MOSTLY ANGOLAN, WHO ARE ALLEGEDLY EQUIPPED WITH THE MOST MODERN SOVIET EQUIPMENT; AND IT ASKS LUNS TO ADD HIS VOICE TO THE PROTESTS AGAINST THIS ATTEMPT TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE BY FORCE. LUNS SAID HE HAD EXPRESSED HIS SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING TO THE ZAIRE AMBASSADOR, BUT HAD REMINDED HIM THAT ANY NATO ASSISTANCE WAS MOST UNLIKELY SINCE THE NATO TREATY AREA IS NOT INVOLVED.

ALLIED REACTIONS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S STATEMENT

2. PERMREPS THEN DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE ALLIED REACTIONS TO VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S STATEMENT THAT THE US WOULD CONSIDER INCREASED INVESTMENT IN NATO'S DEFENSE IF ITS ALLIES WOULD JOIN IN THAT EFFORT. IN SEVERAL INTERVENTIONS, KILLICK (UK) MADE THE GENERAL POINT THAT ALLIED REACTIONS WOULD BE PREMATURE (A) BECAUSE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WAS SO GENERAL THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR TO CALL FOR ANY EARLY RESPONSE, AND (B) BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER SEEMED TO BE CONCENTRATING ON EAST-WEST FORCE REDUCTIONS. HIS PRIME MINISTER, KILLICK SAID, HAD REPORTED THAT THE HEART OF HIS DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS ARMS CONTROL, WHICH THE PRESIDENT SEEMED INCLINED TO PLACE HIGHEST ON HIS IMMEDIATE AGENDA. KILLICK SAID HE BELIEVED THE COURSE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS WOULD NOW BE HAVING A FUNDAMENTAL EFFECT ON THE
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GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES, AND THAT HE FAVORED WAITING TO HEAR WHAT SECRETARY BROWN HAD TO SAY ABOUT NATO DEFENSE AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL IN MAY.

3. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS (PAULS OF THE FRG WAS ONE SUCH), THE POSITIONS OF OTHER PERMREPS ON THIS SUBJECT GENERALLY PARALLELED THOSE ENUNCIATED IN KILLICK'S INTERVENTIONS. SEVERAL, ESPECIALLY CATALANO (ITALY) AND LAGAKOS (GREECE), EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER GEORGE WILSON'S WASHINGTON POST STORY IN THE MARCH 16 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, THE THESIS OF WHICH THEY SAW AS BEING THAT SECRETARY BROWN IS NOT VERY DISTURBED BY THE SOVIET THREAT. THEY SAID THEY FEARED THAT THE WILSON STORY, AND OTHER SUCH REPORTS ON NEW DIRECTIONS IN US FOREIGN-DEFENSE POLICY, WOULD MAKE IT VERY HARD FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO HOLD THE LINE ON DEFENSE EFFORTS AND ON THE CONTINUING NEED FOR A STRONG NATO. THEY ALSO ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IF HE COULD SECURE ANY US GOVERNMENT COMMENT ON THE WILSON STORY. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE COMMENT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO PERMREPS.

4. LUNS HIMSELF GENERALLY TRIED TO MODERATE SOMEWHAT THE PERMREPS' ALARM. HE
QUOTED EXTRACTS FROM VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S STATEMENT

TO THE NAC, REFERRING TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S "DEEP CONCERN ABOUT NATO'S DEFENSE;" HE NOTED THAT IT WAS STILL VERY EARLY IN THE YEAR; AND HE POINTED OUT THAT THE US FY 78 BUDGET SUBMITTED BY PRESIDENT CARTER STILL PROVIDED FOR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AND ASD/ISA.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 1500

EXDIS

A REAL INCREASE OVER FY 77 AND THAT IT MADE EXPLICIT PROVISION FOR NEW STRENGTHENING OF SEVERAL NATO-ORIENTED BUDGET ITEMS. HOWEVER, HE TOO WAS DISTURBED BY THE WILSON STORY AND SAID HE WISHED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONSIDER CONSULTING ITS ALLIES BEFORE ISSUING ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT MAJOR NEW DIRECTIONS IN US FOREIGN-DEFENSE POLICIES.

5. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE WILSON ITEM WAS ONLY A SPECULATIVE NEWS STORY, AND THAT A SMALL REDUCTION IN THE OVERALL US DEFENSE BUDGET DID NOT AT ALL PRECLUDE INCREASES IN US INVESTMENT IN NATO. HE THEN COMMENTED IN SOME DETAIL ON THE ACTUAL REAL INCREASE IN THE NEW FY 78 BUDGET COMPARED TO THE US SUBMISSION TO NATO LAST AUTUMN, AND ON THE ADDITIONAL 600 MILLION DOLLARS FOR GENERAL PURPOSE FORCES, WITH EMPHASIS ON NATO APPLICATIONS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT SHELTERS AND PREPOSITIONED STOCKS. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE SAID THAT KEEPING ONE'S POWDER DRY WAS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION OF SUCCESSFUL ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS, AS EVERYONE HAD CLEARLY RECOGNIZED IN MBFR.

6. THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING WAS THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD AWAIT THE RECEIPT OF MORE DETAIL ON WHAT THE US HAS IN MIND IN THE WAY OF IMPROVING NATO'S DEFENSES.

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AWACS

7. PRIOR TO MEETING, AS NOTED IN REF B, WE AND ASYG LABERGE BOTH HAD TRIED TO DISSUADE LUNS FROM EVEN RAISING AWACS AT THE MEETINGM WE WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL, PARTLY BECAUSE ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE THE MEETING WE UNDERSTAND THAT CMC HILL-NORTON -- ALSO APPARENTLY TRYING TO DISSUADE LUNS FROM RAISING THE SUBJECT -- TOLD LUNS THAT THE US AND THE FRG WERE PROBABLY AT THE POINT OF WORKING OUT A FALLBACK POSITION AT THE BROWN-LEBER MEETING IN WASHINGTON. HILL-NORTON ALSO APPEARS TO HAVE TOLD LUNS THE COMPONENTS OF THAT FALLBACK POSITION. THE MISSION HAD HEARD ONLY INFORMAL REPORTS AND NO DETAILS OF A POSSIBLE FALLBACK.

8. AT THE MEETING LUNS SAID THAT, IF AWACS FAILED, HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THAT SOME SAVING OPERATION MIGHT BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY MOD LEBER AND SECRETARY BROWN. IN THAT CASE, HE SAID, THE UK MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO AHEAD WITH ITS OWN PLANS. HE CONCLUDED BY REFERRING TO THE "MYSTERIOUS" FALLBACK NOW IN THE PICTURE. PAULS SAID IT WAS ALL VERY MYSTERIOUS TO HIM TOO. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT AMBASSADOR PAULS AND HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN KEPT WELL-INFORMED BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

9. COMMENT: WE CANNOT OVER-EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR RECEIVING A COMPLETE DEBRIEF OF THE BROWN-LEBER MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY SINCE HARDY (CANADA) TOLD THE MEETING THAT THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN PROMISED A DEBRIEF ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 17. END COMMENT.

INFRASTRUCTURE

10 LUNS OPENED BY NOTING THAT HIS INNOVATIVE IDEA (REF C) WAS APPARENTLY NOT BEING RECEIVED VERY WELL, AND SEVERAL PERREPS, INCLUDING THE AMBASSADOR, CONFIRMED
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THAT IMPRESSION. CATALANO REVEALED THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOW MOVED FROM A POSITION FAVORING NO AUGMENTATION TO A POSITION FAVORING AN AUGMENTATION SOMEWHAT BELOW THE IAU 140 MILLION FAVORED BY DENMARK. KILLICK WARNED THAT IN THE UK THERE WERE "VULTURES WAITING IN TREES" TO POUNCE UPON THE UK'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MEET ITS SHARE OF IAU 241 MILLION. AFTER A SHORT AND DESULTORY DISCUSSION, LUNS REMANDED THE PROBLEM ONCE AGAIN TO "THE EXPERTS" UNDER ASYG LABERGE. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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